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blue and white matting; Tangaroa, the supreme god of Polynesia, a wooden figure with small human-like objects sprouting from his eyes, mouth and other parts of his body, typifying his creative power; and a head-dress of black feathers, which completes a mourning costume already owned by the museum.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE has succeeded in its undertaking of raising a half million dollar endowment fund. In addition the heirs of the late Phoebe Anna Thorne, of New York, have given the sum of \$200,000 to the college, making a total of \$700,000 additional endowment. These increased resources will not be used to enlarge the college, but to strengthen it, to improve its present equipment, and to aid it in carrying on its work as a small college.

THE gift of \$100,000 in lands by James B. and Benjamin N. Duke, of \$50,000 for a new building by James B. Duke, and of \$10,000 by B. N. Duke for campus improvements, was announced at the commencement exercises of Trinity College, Durham, N. C.

A GIFT of \$20,000 to aid general research in the study of diseases, at the Yale Medical School, has been announced from Francis E. Loomis, of the class of 1864. Further gifts of \$10,000, toward the endowment of the university clinic, and to the Peruvian exploration fund, for the Yale expedition under Assistant Professor Hiram Bingham, have also been announced. For the exploration fund a total of about \$12,000 has been pledged.

MR. JAMES R. STEERS, '53, has made a further contribution to the Wolcott Gibbs library of chemistry at the College of the City of New York. He has endowed it with \$5,000 in five per cent. bonds, the income to be used for upkeep.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY has received from Lady Graham, honorary treasurer of the Dr. A. A. Browne memorial fund, the sum of \$10,000, which is to be devoted to the establishment of a fellowship for the advancement of medical science.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Mathematical Society and the Society of Applied Physics of Göttingen have given 100,000 Marks to a fund for the creation of an institute of mathematics in connection with the University of Göttingen. Two donations of 50,000 Marks from manufacturing houses have also been received.

It is announced that a considerable addition to the laboratory of plant physiology of the Johns Hopkins University will be erected during the present summer. This will include both laboratory and greenhouse space, adapted to advanced work and research.

AN Imperial University Congress will be held at the University of London in the summer of 1912.

A NEW plan of studies at the Harvard Dental School will go into effect October next. During the first half year the students will divide their time between chemistry and general anatomy, including dissection of the cat, embryology, organology and histology. During the second half year they will have human dissection including special work in the anatomy of the head, and they will also have at the same time physiology. The courses have been entirely recast, but the concentration system of studies has been preserved. The new plan has been adopted in the hope of gain from the logical sequence of the subjects.

ONLY the men of the college of letters and science, the school of medicine and the commerce courses will be expected to wear caps and gowns at the commencement exercises of the University of Wisconsin. Owing to the sentiment among the agricultural, law and engineering students they will not be asked to wear the cap and gown.

At the University of Michigan assistant professor R. H. Curtiss, of the department of astronomy, has been made junior professor and assistant director of the observatory to take the place of Professor W. J. Hussey, during the latter's absence at La Plata University. Assistant professor S. J. Zowski, of the engineering department, has been made junior professor of mechanical engineering and Junior Professor Alfred Holmes White, of the same department, full professor of

chemical engineering. Dr. C. H. Kauffman, instructor, has been made assistant professor of botany. Aubrey Tealdi, instructor, has been made assistant professor of landscape gardening, and Dr. G. L. Jackson, instructor, has been made assistant professor of education. Dr. A. G. Ruthven, curator of the museum, has been made assistant professor of zoology.

DR. J. G. FITZGERALD has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology in the University of California.

WILLIAM H. WELKER, Ph.D., has been appointed assistant professor of biological chemistry in Columbia University.

M. TISSOT, an assistant in the Paris Museum of Natural History, has been appointed professor of physiology in the museum.

DR. WENZEL LASKA, of the Technical School at Lemberg, has been appointed professor of mathematics in the Bohemian University of Prague.

DR. ERHARD SCHMIDT, of Erlangen, has been called to the chair of mathematics at Breslau.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS OF INSTRUCTION

In a recent paper under the above title<sup>1</sup> Mr. Sidney Gunn makes the following references to Brown University.

Another illustration of the way the public takes removals can be found in the case of Brown University. . . . Repeated complaints have been raised of men having been cajoled, crowded or thrust out of the Brown faculty with varying degrees of suddenness and consideration. In some cases the men so treated have served the university for many years without being found incompetent or even unworthy of regular promotion—something which in most institutions is regarded as establishing a claim that prevents removal on the ground of natural unfitness.

The paragraph quoted was to be sure part of the material of an argument against the contention of President Van Hise that public

sentiment would always visit speedy condemnation upon a college president or corporation if the power of removal were unfairly or unjustly used. I am not inclined to disagree with this main thesis of Mr. Gunn's paper, nor do I care to enter upon a discussion of the causes or conditions of removal of members of the faculty of Brown University in recent years. Such discussion could serve no good purpose, and would only lead to futile controversy. I do, however, deeply regret that a reference to Brown University should appear in *SCIENCE* from which every reader must inevitably draw the inference that the situation at Brown is typically bad with respect to the academic freedom and the tenure of office of its teachers; that the members of the Brown faculty do not enjoy a reasonable security of tenure but are liable, even after long and apparently satisfactory service, to be removed arbitrarily by the president or governing board.

That its administrative body has never made an error of judgment is more than can be said, probably, of any long-established institution; but all friends of collegiate education Mr. Gunn included, should be glad to know that the indictment contained in the statements and implications of Mr. Gunn's paragraph referring to Brown is not justified by the policy of the university.

The permanency of tenure of office for professors is secured by the ancient charter of the university. A professor can be removed only "for misdemeanor, incapacity or unfaithfulness." The president and governing boards at the present time also recognize the fact that security of tenure, in the long run, is to the university a financial asset as well as a necessary condition of continuous and contented scholarly work and the natural and appropriate reward of loyalty and of long and faithful service. It is the well understood policy of the university to construe the principle of tenure, in accordance with the spirit of the charter, as applying to those assistant and associate professors who have served many years satisfactorily.

Instructorships are considered to be tempo-

<sup>1</sup> *SCIENCE*, May 12, 1911, p. 729.